



## City of Los Angeles



Environmental Affairs Department  
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**California Hydrogen Highway Public  
Education Team  
Consumers and Customers Panel**  
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## City of Los Angeles

### The City's Hydrogen pathway

- In December 2002, the City of Los Angeles began leasing the first of five Honda FCX vehicles, which have been used in normal, everyday activities by City officials.
- Honda's FCX is certified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the first fuel cell car to be approved for use on public roads.
- CARB has also certified the FCX as a zero emission vehicle (ZEV).

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The vehicles are being leased as part of a demonstration project to test the vehicles under real driving conditions and provide experience to the City staff.



**Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn accepts the first  
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle from Honda Motor Company,  
Ltd President and CEO Hiroyuki Yoshino.**

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One of the City's five Honda FCX cars



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### Fueling

City of Los Angeles temporary Hydrogen Fueling Station on City property



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Why did the City choose to participate in the demonstration project?

- This demonstration supports the City's Clean Fuel Policy which was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council in 2000
- This policy supports alternative fuel applications by supporting programs and regulations that balance environmental benefits against operational concerns such as safety, efficiency, and cost effectiveness
- It also pledges leadership in the area of clean fuel vehicle technology including the exploration of new technologies such as fuel cells to accomplish the goal of improving ambient air quality in the region

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Why did the City choose to participate in the demonstration project?(continued)

- Provides City staff hands-on experience with new technology
- Follows on City's leadership with other alternative fuel technologies like compressed natural gas and the electric vehicle
- The City seized the opportunity to work with hydrogen technology. The City of Los Angeles represents 39 percent of the total County of Los Angeles population and 23 percent of the total population of the four county air basin area

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How do we promote or use the alternative fuel technologies?

- The vehicles have been placed in the City's fleet and are operated by staff on a daily basis. Employees exposed to the technology become more comfortable with alternative fuel vehicles
- The City encourages high profile officials (for example, the Mayor) to drive the vehicles. They are easily recognized and draw attention to the cars
- The vehicles are taken to outreach events, meetings, seminars and places that the general public is able to observe them and become familiar with the technology
- The City has prepared brochures, printed materials which are carried in the FCX
- The City has an unassigned vehicle that is made available to various departments in the City, including Council staff, Housing Department, Community Development Department and others

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Common questions we receive from the public

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ■ Will it explode?                | ■ What about high altitude driving?                             |
| ■ Where do you fuel it?           | ■ How much does hydrogen fuel cost?                             |
| ■ Is the vehicle reliable?        | ■ What is the driving range?                                    |
| ■ How much does the vehicle cost? | ■ Other drivers give City employees driving the FCX a thumbs up |
| ■ How fast will it go?            |   |

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What factors do you consider when purchasing New Fleet Vehicles?

- Continue the City's leadership in new innovations and to address environmental issues for the residents of the City. The City's officials have committed to investigate new technologies
- Technology must meet the City's needs and specifications for the provision of City services
- The City looks for better mileage, lower operating cost to the City, maintenance cost and warranty protection. The City requires effective communication between the fleet managers and the manufacturers
- Adequate infrastructure is a critical component. (availability and cost)
- Funding opportunities – grant programs are needed to leverage existing resources. For example, Carl Moyer and other State grant programs

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What steps do you take to prepare staff?

- The City ensures that employees are trained to operate, drive, refuel the vehicle dependent on the employee's individual role. Honda trained selected City staff and authorized them to instruct other staff on fueling
- The City ensures for all new technologies, that the manufacturers provide training for City employees concerning safety and maintenance precautions
- The City also offers in house training programs

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The City of Los Angeles continues to support and encourage the development of alternative fuel technologies that will help us clean the air we breathe.

We look forward to working with you as we progress along the Hydrogen Highway.

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